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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,504	11/19/2001	Michael E. Himmel	NREL 99-38	3921
23712	7590	12/10/2004	EXAMINER	
PAUL J WHITE, SENIOR COUNSEL NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY (NREL) 1617 COLE BOULEVARD GOLDEN, CO 80401-3393			RAO, MANJUNATH N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1652	

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/997,504	Applicant(s) HIMMEL ET AL.	
	Examiner Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1652	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 22 November 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See attached.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☐ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: 4 and 7.

Claim(s) rejected: 3, 5, 6, 8 and 29-31.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 1, 2, 9-21, 26-28.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____

Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1652

Advisory Action

Claims 1-21, 26 through 31 are still at issue and are present for examination. Claims 3-8 and 29-31 are now under consideration. Claims 1-2, 9-21, 26-28 remain withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected invention.

Applicant's request for reconsideration filed on 11-22-04 has been considered but NOT ENTERED, as it raises new issues and requires the Examiner to institute new rejections. The amendment has not been entered for the following reasons;

In response to the previous Office action, applicant has amended claim 4 and cancelled claims 3-5, 8, 29-31. While such a cancellation of claims does indeed overcome the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, amendment of claim 4 does not place the application in condition for an allowance. Applicant remarks that since Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if presented as an independent claim, said amendment has been made and therefore claims should be allowed. However, upon examination of claim 4, it can be seen that the claim continues to be directed to a method of increasing the specific activity of any variant or mutant glycosylhydrolase. The amendment if entered would require the Examiner to reject claim 4 again under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph as non-enabled.

Furthermore, claim 7 continues to be dependent on claim 3 which is a cancelled claim and again entry of the amendment would require the Examiner to reject claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph as indefinite. Applicant has also failed to cancel all withdrawn claims.

Therefore with the non-entry of the amendment filed on 11-22-04, all previous rejections and objections are maintained for reasons of record.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0939. The Examiner can normally be reached on 7.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306/9307 for regular communications and for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.



Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

December 9, 2004